

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**

Monarch Mania
Saturday
September 24th
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
All Ages Welcome!



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 19 August 2005 Number 08



The Wonders of a Wetland Hike

You have probably taken a hike through a forest or prairie, but have you ever walked in a wetland? Most of us, by nature, don't like to get wet and rebel at the idea of taking our kids to an area they are guaranteed to get muddy. However, if you never stop to explore these unique habitats, you will miss viewing a cornucopia of wildlife. From dragonflies to frogs, there are many animals that call a wetland home, and so many more creatures visit the wetland for food and water. You could find animal tracks along the water's edge or even see the animals themselves! Snakes, raccoons, turtles, and birds are often spotted at ponds and if you plan ahead you could see even more! Bring along a dip net or small container on your wetland hike to search for the smaller animals along the bank. Last month, I dipped my net into

a pond and one pass revealed tadpoles, mosquito larva, freshwater shrimp, crayfish, and water boatman. Even if you can't identify everything you see, you can still enjoy finding and observing the tiny creatures, but be sure to return them to their home after you're done.

There are many wetlands you can explore. From man-made fishing ponds to small cattail marshes; from large creeks to small streams, each locale will reveal a different assortment of wildlife. We hope you get a chance this summer to take a walk through a wetland and learn a little more about a very diverse Missouri habitat. Happy wading!

-Diane Neal



Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!



The Nutshell
 Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
 Missouri Department of Conservation
 1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

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AUGUST PROGRAMS

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

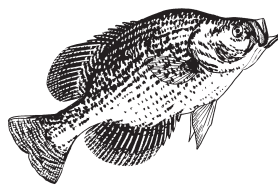
7 Sunday

Adults Only Hiking Club: Smithville Lake

Join volunteer naturalists on June 12th hiking a beautiful trail at Smithville Lake. The wooded trail meanders it's way around the lake with plenty of plant life and wildlife to enjoy. Who knows, maybe we will see a fisherman catch a lunker (big fish). Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and bring a snack and water. Please call to register. **Adults (20 yr and up) / 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

10 Wednesday

O.A.K.S. Outdoors Fishing & Crappie Jig Making



Crappie are said by many to be the best eating fish around; some even believe they're better eating than trout!

Join us for this fun class as we make our own crappie jigs and then try them out for some good ol' fishing at the fishing hole! It will be catch and release fishing, but we'll get to see if our jigs will do the trick! Please call to register. **Adults 50 yr and up / 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

13 Saturday

For families with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Family Fishing

The family that fishes together stays together. Since your family probably has very little time together these days, take some time this morning and go fishing. Even if you have never fished before, we welcome you. We will provide the fishing poles; you provide a valid fishing permit for family member between 16 and 65 years of age. Permits are available at the front desk at the Nature Center. Please call to register. **All ages / 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

13 Saturday

Family Fishing

It's spring and that means it's time to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. We'll provide all the equipment and worms, you bring your child(ren) and we'll teach them the basics of fishing and then they'll try their luck. **Attendees 16 to 65 yr must have a valid fishing license**, available for purchase at the Nature Center. Please call to register. **Families with children 5 yr and up / 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

13 Saturday

Babes in the Woods: Bugs, Bees and Butterflies

Your child is never too young to be outside and enjoy what nature has to offer. During this class we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler learn to appreciate the creepy crawlies that they will encounter in the outdoors. Please bring a stroller. Please call to register. **infant-2 years old / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

17 Wednesday or 23 Tuesday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing A Day with the Naturalist: Bodies of Water

Spend a full day with a deaf naturalist, Sheri Medlock as we explore the bodies of water! Have you ever wondered what lives in a pond or stream? Many insects begin their lives in the water. Join us as we discover their world underwater. We will go fishing and do other fun aquatic activities. Be sure to bring sack lunch, water bottle, and afternoon snack. Prepare to get wet. This program will be presented in sign language. Please call to register. **7 yr and up / 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

20 Saturday

All ages / 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Vulture Venture

Can you name an animal that has a bald red head, eats rotten meat, and projectile vomits?!? It's that big bird flying in circles high above your head....a TURKEY VULTURE!! Come out to Burr Oak Woods as we dedicate this special day to our favorite road kill clean-up crew! We will have interesting (maybe disgusting) facts about this amazing bird, games, crafts, and much more! No registration required.



Little Acorns:

Do you hear that HUMMING?

The hummingbirds are heading south for winter already! It seems like only yesterday that we were setting up our feeders and too soon we will have to say goodbye for another season. Join us for a farewell celebration to the ruby-throated hummingbird and make a little memento to take home with you to remember our smallest bird friend by. Please call to register. **Ages 3-5.**

**Saturday the 6th
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday the 10th
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday the 24th
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

27 Saturday

Family Fishing

It's spring and that means it's time to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. We'll provide all the equipment and worms, you bring your child(ren) and we'll teach them the basics of fishing and then they'll try their luck. **Attendees 16 to 65 yr must have a valid fishing license**, available for purchase at the Nature Center. Please call to register. **Families with children 5 yr and up / 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

28 Sunday

Adults Only:

The Wonders of Canoeing

Have you ever wanted to learn how to canoe, but did not know how to acquire the skills you needed? Have you ever dreamed about camping along a river in the wilderness? Then this is the class for you! Come out and learn the basic strokes, rescue techniques, the best places to go, what equipment you might need, and just how to plan a trip of your own. You won't want to miss out on this fun-filled program. Be prepared to get muddy and wet. Please call to register. **Adults only ages 20 and up / 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Saturday's

Nature Story Hour

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Youngsters 2 yrs and up
No Registration Required**

6th Grasshoppers,
Crickets and Katydid
13th Lizards
27th Dragonflies

Nature Shop News

August Nature Shop Featured Item

Singing Insects of Missouri

CD with poster

Regular price \$8.⁰⁰

Featured price

\$6.⁴⁰

Heritage Discount Does
Not Apply

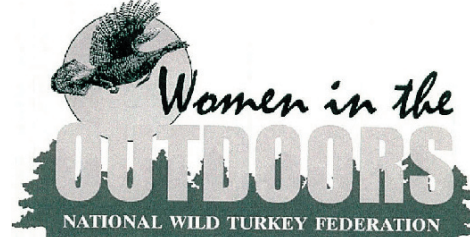


September

10 Saturday

Women in the Outdoors

in cooperation with The Wild Turkey Federation,
South River Gobblers Chapter



The kids are back in school and you are ready for a break. Did you ever wish you knew how to fish, safely shoot a gun, or canoe down one of Missouri's Ozark streams? How about weave a reed basket, take great nature photographs, or plant a butterfly garden. It this sounds interesting to you, plus lots more, this is the all day adventure just for you!

Bring a friend to make this a special day the two of you can share together. We have enthusiastic, patient instructors who are skilled at teaching beginners and a little more advanced who want to tweak their skills. This day is for everyone! You won't want to miss it! Call 816/228-3766 for a Registration Form or for more information. 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Optional Wild Game Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Registration:

Early bird: \$40

(Postmarked by August 10)

Registering with a friend: \$ 45

Regular Registration: \$ 50

(Postmarked by September 1)

Late Registration: \$ 55

(Postmarked after September 1)

AUGUST PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

816-229-4448 28900 E Argo Road
Grain Valley, Mo 64029

Website for Lake City Shooting Range and
Outdoor Education Center

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call **816-229-4448** for information and to register for the programs listed below.

Youth .22 cal Metallic Target

Shooting Youths ages 11- 16 yr
Tuesday the 2nd, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Introduction to Muzzleloading

Friday the 5th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Youth Trapping Education

Tuesday the 9th - Thursday the 11th,
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Basic Archery Hunting

Seminar

Thursday the 18th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Ladies Firearm Safety- Class

Saturday the 20th, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Tree Stand Safety

Wednesday the 24th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Cable Restraint Course

Saturday the 27th, 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Natural Happenings

- Copperheads are “born” this week. (Female Copperheads hold young inside until ready to “hatch”.)
- Hummingbirds begin their migration south. Look for more hummers at your feeders as the northern population moves thru.
- Male white-tailed deer rub velvet off antlers. Watch for their “rubs” on small trees.
- Striped bass and walleye head for cold water.
- Wild grapes will be ripe and ready this month!
- Birdwatcher Alert: Fall warbler migration is in full swing this month.



For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org